



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

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NOAA Fisheries Seeks Public Comment on a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Royal Red Shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico *Comment Period Ends October 6, 2014*

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on a draft environmental impact statement for Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the draft environmental impact statement on August 22, 2014.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) is currently considering actions to modify the annual catch limit and choose an accountability measure for royal red shrimp. Accountability measures are management controls that ensure catch limits are not exceeded or provide corrective measures if overages occur. The draft environmental impact statement analyzes the environmental impacts of these proposed actions.

This environmental impact statement is supplemental to one previously developed for the Council's generic amendment to set annual catch limits and accountability measures. The previous environmental impact statement is available from the Council website at http://www.gulfcouncil.org/docs/amendments/Final%20Generic%20ACL_AM_Amendment-September%209%202011%20v.pdf.

Request for Comments

NOAA Fisheries must receive comments on this draft environmental impact statement no later than **October 6, 2014**. You may obtain electronic copies of the draft amendment and environmental impact statement from the NOAA Fisheries Web site at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/shrimp/2014/am16/index.html or the e-Rule Making Portal (see below).

How to Submit Comments

You may submit comments on this document by one of the following methods:

- Electronic Submission via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2014-0030>. Click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). You can also attach additional files (up to 10MB) in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.
- Mail written comments to Susan Gerhart, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on the regulations.gov website without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible.

For more information on Amendment 16 please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the NOAA Fisheries Web site.